

The Wheeling Intelligencer.

VOLUME XLVI--NUMBER 106.

WHEELING, W. VA., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1897.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

TWO BANKS CLOSE.

Philadelphia Wakened Up by a Financial Sensation.

CHESTNUT STREET NATIONAL.

One of the Strongest Institutions in the City Compelled to Suspend, Carrying with it the Suspension of the Chestnut Street Trust and Saving Fund Company. Both Banks Governed by the Same Set of Officers--The Suspension Said to Have Been Caused by the Embarrassment of William M. Singler, President of the Institutions and Proprietor of the Philadelphia Record--The Banks May Go into Voluntary Liquidation, and Thus Avoid a Receivership.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.--A sensation was created in this city to-day by the announcement of the suspension of the Chestnut Street National Bank, regarded as one of the strongest financial institutions in the city. The suspension carried with it the closing of the Chestnut Street Trust and Saving Fund Company, doing business under the state banking laws. William M. Singler, publisher of the Philadelphia Record, is president of both companies, and the same men, with one exception, act as officers and directors.

The first information the public received that the banks were in trouble was in the form of a notice posted this morning on the door of the building occupied jointly by the two concerns, signed by National Bank Examiner William M. Hart, to the effect that the Chestnut Street National Bank had closed its doors pending an investigation of its affairs. No statement of assets and liabilities is available, but it is stated that the deposits of the Chestnut Street bank amounted to \$1,700,000 and of the Trust company \$1,000,000.

President Singler gave out a brief statement to-night in which he said: "We are working to secure the indebtedness of the two banks so that they can go into voluntary liquidation and thus avoid a receivership."

In this connection Deputy Comptroller of the Treasury George M. Coffin, who was sent here from Washington by Comptroller Eckels to-day said: "The matter of putting the Chestnut Street National Bank into voluntary liquidation has been taken up by Philadelphia men of great financial ability. Their first step will be to ascertain the value of the assets of the bank. They must first be satisfied that they have value sufficient to warrant them in assuming the indebtedness."

Mr. Coffin will remain here several days aiding the men who have taken upon themselves the task of extricating Mr. Singler from his financial difficulties. These gentlemen are in consultation to-night and the belief is strong that they will provide the funds necessary for a voluntary liquidation of the two banks.

It was known for some time in banking circles that Mr. Singler's banks were in trouble and the national examiner, it is said, was aware of the condition of affairs. Last night a number of the leading bank officials of the city had a conference lasting until nearly 3 o'clock this morning, considering the matter of raising sufficient money to relieve Mr. Singler's banks of their distress. It is understood that a proposition to float \$2,000,000 preferred stock of the Philadelphia Record had been practically agreed to when the discovery was made that because of the involved condition of the Trust Company's finances this sum would not be within several hundred thousand dollars of the amount required. Negotiations were therefore declared off and the banks were forced to the wall. Now it is hoped that the committee which began to-night where the former committee left off will succeed in satisfactorily adjusting the finances and thus permit the banks to pay depositors dollar for dollar.

The net earnings of the Record last year are said to have been \$240,000, more than sufficient to pay interest on a sum large enough to pay all of Mr. Singler's indebtedness to the banks.

The statements of the cause of the failure current here agree with that made by Comptroller Eckels at Washington to-day, that it was primarily due to the loss of much money by Mr. Singler in his unproductive paper mill at Elkton, Md., one of the largest in the country. One statement placed the sum thus involved at nearly a million of dollars. Mr. Singler also has much money invested in other enterprises in this and other cities. Rumors were current to the effect that the ownership of the Record would pass from Mr. Singler, but this he denied, stating positively that he is in absolute control of the paper and will continue as its head.

On Monday of this week, the Chestnut street national bank made the following report to the Philadelphia clearing house: Loans and discounts, \$2,251,000; legal reserve, \$356,000; deposits, \$1,700,000; due from banks, \$355,000; due to banks, \$886,000; circulation, \$42,000.

The reserve has been below the legal requirements for several weeks. The deposit on October 5, when the bank reported to the comptroller of the treasury, amounted to \$2,315,000.

The shrinkage in this item therefore, has been more than \$500,000 in a little over two months.

It is said there have been quiet, but steady runs on both banks for several days past. Of the deposits in the bank, the city is represented by \$200,000; the state by \$225,000, and the national government by a large sum, but all of these creditors are believed to be protected. When the Trust company makes its statement to the state authorities on November 18, the deposits amounted to \$1,822,500.

A meeting of the directors of the Trust company will be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning, to decide upon a

course of procedure. It is believed the state bank examiner will then take formal possession of the institution. State Bank Commissioner Gillespie was in the office of the company a short while to-day and it is stated that he has had the books of the institution under inspection for some time past.

Much sympathy is expressed on all sides for Mr. Singler. He has occupied such a prominent place in the affairs of the city and the state for years past that the news of his financial difficulties naturally created a sensation.

Mr. Singler stated that he had received hundreds of telegrams from all over the country, expressing the sympathy of the senders. He has borne the strain well, although he naturally shows in his face and manner the deep concern his troubles are causing him.

Crowds were gathered in front of the big granite banking building all day, but all was quiet. A line of policemen kept the people moving. A great number of small accounts were carried by the Trust company and apprehension was expressed that some distress might follow the failure. If the hopes of a quick settlement are realized, however, all depositors will be paid in full within a short time.

The Chestnut Street National Bank was established in June, 1887, but was not incorporated until July 5, of the same year. Hon. Robert E. Pattison was its first president, assuming the office when he retired from the governorship. When he again became governor, in 1891, Mr. Singler succeeded him. The present officers and directors of the bank are: William M. Singler, president; Benjamin J. Obdyke, vice president; Benjamin J. Obdyke, Benjamin A. Van Schick, John Simmons, Charles A. Porter, Walter T. Bradley and George J. Ziegler, Jr., directors; W. W. Price, paying teller; William Steele, cashier, and J. F. Reardon, notary public.

The officers and directors of the Chestnut Street Trust and Saving Fund Company are: William M. Singler, president; Isaac Cooper, vice president; Irvin C. Garverick, secretary and treasurer; H. C. Hart, title officer. The directors are: William M. Singler, Isaac Cooper, Benjamin J. Obdyke, Benjamin A. Van Schick, John Simmons, Allen B. Porke, Charles A. Porter and Walter T. Bradley.

Depew's Patriotic Utterances.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.--Chauncey M. Depew was one of the late speakers at the banquet of the Congressional club last night. In closing his speech, he said: For the twentieth century the mission of the United States is peace; peace that it may capture the markets of the world; peace that it may find the places where its surplus products, not only of food, but of labor, can meet with a profitable return. President McKinley has struck the keynote of this expanding policy of our country and recognized that our mission has changed from internal development purely to external commerce, in the note which he has sounded so loudly and so clearly for peace. Thus the twentieth century will regard the nineteenth, the eighteenth, the seventeenth and the sixteenth, and the United States will enter hopefully upon its larger mission. God grant that we may see America reach out on the lines set down by our forefathers in the conquest of the world.

President's Sorrowful Christmas.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.--During the remainder of the present week the white house will be practically closed to all except those who call upon urgent official business, or who have engagements to see the President. In order that Mr. McKinley may consider more important questions and obtain a needed rest. The death of the President's mother, and the more recent death of his cousin, Mrs. Charles B. Miller, of Canton, caused an entire abandonment of preparations for holiday festivities at the white house. Christmas day will be observed quietly. Only the President and Mrs. McKinley and their immediate household, which includes their nieces, Miss Barber and Miss Duncan and two or three personal friends will be present at the Christmas dinner.

That Bering Sea Award.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.--The findings of the British-American commission, chosen to assess the damages for seizures of British ships in Bering Sea, have been received by the state department and the British embassy. The strictest reticence is maintained, however, on the general character of the finding, though it is admitted that the total of the award against the United States is \$64,000, which includes principal and interest. The controversy has occupied the attention of the authorities here and in London for the last eleven years. At the outset the tone of controversy was very belligerent, suggesting a possible resort to arms.

Delegate Payne Declined.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.--Delegate C. H. Payne, member of the house of delegates from Fayette county, was recently tendered, by Representative Dorr, the appointment of postmaster for the town of Montgomery, Fayette county, W. Va., but declined. Mr. Dorr desired to secure an appointment for Mr. Payne elsewhere, but had not succeeded and accordingly offered him the position named. Since the decline it has become reasonably assured that another place will be made available. Mr. Dorr has recommended Mr. A. F. Montgomery for the postmaster ship, and the appointment will doubtless be made at an early day.

Recent Pensions.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.--Certificates of pensions have been issued to West Virginia applicants as follows: Increase-Patrick Farley, Wheeling, to \$5 per month; Isaac Wilkins, Independence, \$17 per month. Widow-Nancy J. Stiller, Terra Alta, \$12 per month. Other pensions have been issued as follows: James Hakathorn, East Liverpool, O., original pension, \$5; John C. Roberts, Martin's Ferry, Ohio, \$5; Orloff A. Zane, Bridgeport, Ohio, \$5; Emeline Hudson, Greensboro, Pa., widow, \$5 per month.

A Christmas Blizzard.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., Dec. 23.--A blizzard is raging in Wyoming county, forty miles south of this city. Nearly four feet of snow has fallen during the last twenty-four hours and the storm continues with no sign of abatement. Roads are blocked and the farmers are shut up in their houses.

Mine Workers Convention.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 23.--A call was issued to-day for the ninth annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America to meet in Columbus, January 11, 1898.

A VERY HOT TIME

In Two Cities, Resulting in Disastrous Fire Losses.

EXPLOSION OF NATURAL GAS

In Chicago Injures Twenty-three People. That Many Were Not Killed Outright Little Short of a Miracle--The Building an Iceberg Without and a Furnace Within--Destructive Conflagration in Cleveland, Involving the Loss of Nearly a Million Dollars Worth of Property.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.--Fire broke out shortly after 4 o'clock this afternoon in the basement of the five story building at 30 Madison street, the first floor and basement of which were occupied by the Tosetti cafe and restaurant company, and the second floor by the billiard parlors of Frank Mussey. The blaze was insignificant at first and a crowd of people gathered on the sidewalk in front of the building to watch the work of the firemen. About a dozen policemen were busily engaged in pushing back the throng, when a terrific explosion of natural gas took place. The building was badly wrecked, the windows, window gratings, sidewalk lights and manhole covers were hurled in the air and fell among the crowd. Dozens of people were thrown from their feet and twenty-three were injured, only one of them, Captain Thomas O'Connor, being, however, seriously hurt.

The explosion caused a wild panic in the street and in the frantic rush for safety that followed many people were thrown down and trampled upon. That many were not killed and many more injured was little short of a miracle. The fire spread through the building with great rapidity after the explosion, and within ten minutes it was blazing fiercely. Call after call for additional engines was sent in by Chief Swenick, but the fire could only be reached in front and rear and was difficult of access. The severe weather caused much of the water to freeze and within an hour the building resembled an iceberg with a furnace in its interior. The burning building is within fifty feet of the intersection of Dearborn and Madison streets, where the loops of the West Side and North Side cable lines intersect and from the time the fire broke out until after midnight, traffic was entirely suspended on both lines.

The loss is estimated at \$125,000, of which \$90,000 will fall on the Tosetti company; \$30,000 on Mussey and \$15,000 on Morris Rosenfeld, the owner of the building.

CLEVELAND'S CONFLAGRATION.

Over Half a Million Dollars Worth of Property Sacrificed to the Flames--Fire Started by an Explosion.

CLEVELAND, O., Dec. 23.--Fire broke out in the business centre of the city at 5 o'clock this afternoon, and destroyed property worth nearly a million dollars. The Power block on Frankfort street, owned by J. B. Perkins, six stories high and made of brick, was consumed above the second story, and the rear of the brick Wilshire block, six stories high, owned also by Mr. Perkins and fronting on Superior street, was burned. The fire started by the explosion of a large can of benzine in the lithographing establishment of Johns & Company, in the Power block. Windows were blown out and several employees escaped with difficulty by the fire escapes and a bridge leading to the Wilshire block.

It is believed the losses will come close to a million dollars. The principal losers are: Johns & Company, lithographers, Power block, \$225,000; J. L. Hudson, clothing, on stock by fire and water, \$100,000; J. B. Perkins on Power block, \$100,000; J. B. Perkins on Blackstone building, \$40,000; J. B. Perkins on Wilshire building, \$30,000; H. C. House on Century building, \$4,000.

The losses of scores of tenants, especially in the Power and Blackstone buildings, the latter of which was occupied mainly by lawyers, with costly libraries, will be heavy. About 75 per cent of the losses are covered by insurance.

Lieutenant McPeeters, of the fire department, fell through the floor in one of the buildings and was badly, though not fatally hurt. The fire was not under control about 9 o'clock, though a dozen engines are still at work on it and will probably continue all night.

The N. & O. Railroad Will Pay.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 23.--The receivers of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Company, will pay on the first day of January, 1898:

In New York--At the office of Messrs. Vermilye & Company, interest on Pittsburgh & Connellsville first mortgage, 1898, ex-dividend 4 per cent bonds of \$2,581,000--\$101,620. Messrs. Speyer & Company, will purchase the coupons from the unextinguished bonds of the above issue.

Mercantile Trust Company interest on Baltimore & Ohio Car Trust funds, 1898, \$5,400,000--\$102,000.

In Baltimore--Baltimore Trust and Guarantee Company interest on P. & C. certificates, \$520,000--\$16,250.

Treasury Department Baltimore & Ohio railroad interest on Winchester & Potomac first mortgage bonds, \$4,417; dividend on Winchester & Strasburg stock, \$1,492.

Coming This Way.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 23.--The Uniontown, Waynesburg & West Virginia Railroad Company, capitalised at \$1,000,000, has been chartered by the state department to build a line from Uniontown to Waynesburg, thence to the forks of Wheeling Creek at the Pennsylvania state line, a distance of fifty miles. W. H. Daly, of Pittsburgh, is president.

Committed Suicide in Jail.

CHURCH CLAIMS.

Various Denominations in West Virginia Ask Reimbursement for Damages Incurred During the Late Rebellion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.--There is a bill now before Congress which, if adopted, will be of pecuniary advantage to some twenty churches in as many communities in West Virginia and as many more in each of the states of Virginia and Maryland. The bill has been favorably reported by the committee on war claims of the house, and under its provisions a tribunal is to be established to investigate the claims made for the occupation of churches by United States troops during the late war. The quartermaster-general is to be the chief of the board, who shall make due inquiry of all such matters and report the amounts respectively found to be due, certifying the same to the auditor for the war department, precisely as are claims under what is known as the Fourth of July act. The auditor is required to report the claims to Congress for the applicants. The testimony now on file in the individual cases may be read in support of the claims before the new tribunal. By means of such exacting the proposed system would simplify the investigations of such claims and avoid the cumbering of the files of Congress, with private bills.

Two of the West Virginia claims included in the list now before Congress have been already referred to at length in the Intelligencer. The full list is as follows: Beverly, Presbyterian, rent and damages, \$2,000; Charleston, St. John's, damages, \$1,021; Gauley Bridge, Fayette county, Baptist church, burned, \$800; French Creek, Presbyterian, burned, \$1,000; Harper's Ferry, Methodist Episcopal church, damaged, amount not stated, parsonage damaged, \$755.85; Hardy county, church denomination not given, destroyed, value \$2,000; Harper's Ferry, Protestant Episcopal, rent and damages, \$800; Kanawha county, St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal, rent and damages, \$2,648; Martinsburg, Lutheran, rent and damages, \$1,275; German Evangelical church destroyed, Trinity Episcopal, damaged, amount not stated; St. Joseph's Catholic, rent and damages, \$1,000.

Mineral county, Burlington Free church, rent and damages \$935.82; Methodist Episcopal, Keyser, destroyed by Confederates, \$1,200; Philippi, Barbours county, Mount Olive Baptist, damages \$150. Mill Creek, Randolph county, damages, amount not stated. Mingo Flats, Randolph county, church denomination not given, damages not stated. Webster, Methodist Episcopal, rent \$720.

Should the bills mentioned become law, these and all similar claims will go regularly before the tribunal upon evidence obtainable and be judged accordingly to the rules of evidence. The congressional committee in passing upon the measure decides that the government, in dealing with churches, as well as colleges, should make voluntary reparation for injuries inflicted by the operations of war. It is believed that \$400,000 will pay all meritorious claims of this nature.

Why Kingwood is Jubilating.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER. KINGWOOD, W. VA., Dec. 23.--No national election was ever celebrated with greater vehemence than the result of the special election in this town held to-day. An ordinance to issue \$10,000 worth of bonds for public improvements was ratified. By a vote of ninety-two against thirty-seven Kingwood has decided to get out of the woods and will have side walks and electric lights. The stock of Christmas fire works is being used to-night in a gigantic celebration and jubilee.

DRAMATIC END

Over the Apportionment Bill in the Illinois Legislature.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Dec. 23.--Amid scenes of riotous disorder and intense excitement the house to-day passed the Republican senatorial apportionment bill by a vote of seventy-nine yeas to fifty-four nays. There were but two votes to spare. It was a hair-breadth escape from defeat for the Republican managers. Representative Patrick Meany, of Chicago, saved the bill for the Republican organization. He furnished the seventy-seventh vote necessary to pass the measure and when he ended a speech with the words "I vote yeo," State Treasurer Henry Hertz, a Republican leader who stood at his side, trembling with anxiety and excitement, flung his arms about Meany's neck and hugged him as though he were a long lost son returned from the Klondike. Representatives Funk and Scroggin, the McLean county kickers then voted for the bill, making seventy-nine in all.

It was a dramatic end of the apportionment fight in the house. The Democrats shouted and jeered and did their best to make so much noise that business could not be transacted. A score of the loudest tongued men mounted their desks and started a hubbub that was maintained until two calls of the roll were finished. So great was the tumult that everybody in the state house was drawn to the scene and the floor of Representatives Hall was crowded with excited men, whom neither the speaker's gavel nor the sergeant-at-arms could control.

To-day's events insure the success of the apportionment as the senate is certain to pass the bill the first week in January.

TOLD IN A FEW LINES.

W. W. Andrews, an attorney, and the head of one of the most distinguished families in the Western Reserve, was found dead in his chair at his office in Cleveland, Ohio, yesterday. Heart disease.

Samuel Sloan, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company, was yesterday presented with a \$15,000 golden service by the officials and employees of the company at New York, in commemoration of his eightieth birthday, which falls on Christmas.

John Andersen was yesterday, at Norfolk, Va., convicted for the murder of William Wallace Saunders, mate of the schooner Olive Packer, on the high seas, on the 6th of August last, and under the sentence of the court must be hanged on the 18th day of March next, unless the supreme court of the United States in the meantime interposes.

It is believed that the President has decided to appoint Judge Paxton, of Pennsylvania, as a member of the interstate commerce commission to succeed Colonel William H. Morrison, whose term will expire in January. The President yesterday informed Senator DeLoach of Kentucky, who called upon him in the interest of Mayor Todd, of Louisville, that the position was promised, and it is thought that Judge Paxton is the man slated for the place.

Suffered from Ill Health.

ITALY DECLINES

England's Proposal for Joint Occupation of Chusan.

OWING TO HER OBLIGATIONS

To Germany--British Government has Also Proposed to Russia a Conference on the Chinese Question with a View of Avoiding Dangerous Rivalries--The Press of Europe Interested as to the Attitude Great Britain and the United States are Likely to Adopt--Japan is Getting Ready to Ruffle Her Feathers. Something will Drop Soon.

LONDON, Dec. 23.--A dispatch to the Daily Chronicle from Rome says it is rumored there that owing to her obligations to Germany, Italy has declined England's proposal for common action in the far east including a joint occupation of Chusan.

According to the same dispatch it is asserted that England has proposed to Russia a conference on the Chinese question with a view of avoiding dangerous rivalries.

The Shanghai correspondent of the Daily Mail says: "The Chinese government is helpless. It is mobilizing a few troops under the least incapable general who conducted the campaign against Japan. The British fleet is at present at sea."

The Daily Chronicle this morning says it has good reason to believe that the government has decided upon a waiting policy and will refrain from occupying any Chinese territory for the present, but it will give moral support to Japan and distinct warnings to China concerning England's action in certain contingencies.

"It is understood," says the Daily Chronicle, "that Japan will protest in the strongest manner against Germany's action, and diplomatic circles ridicule the idea of a Russo-German entente concerning China."

Hard to Believe.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.--The National Zeitung says: "It is easy to believe that England would welcome active steps on the part of the United States, but hard to believe that the United States would adopt such a policy of friendship toward England and of hostility toward Russia, contrary to all its traditions, for the sake of either England or China."

The press is evidently deeply interested as to the attitude Great Britain and the United States are likely to adopt in the Chinese affair. Every attempt is being made to create ill-feeling against England and to represent her as isolated.

The official newspapers pretend that Japan has acquiesced in the German and Russian moves and will take no aggressive action. Everything indicates the anxiety that hinges upon the ultimate grouping of the powers. Japan's action in withdrawing her protest with reference to the course of the United States at Hawaii is interpreted as showing a desire to be unincumbered abroad, and to have her hands free to deal with the Chinese question.

Very Much Mixed Up.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.--Commenting on the strained relations between Japan and Russia over Korea, the Chinese papers report that the Japanese army is full of Russian spies, disguised as Japanese, and that the Russian army is being tampered with by Japanese emissaries, who are doing all they can to stir up dissatisfaction. Commenting upon Kiao-Chiao affair the Ashahi says that the action of the Germans in having suddenly seized Kiao-Chiao is outrageous, and that it disturbs the peace of the far east admits of no discussion. Japan being near the scene of trouble, cannot regard the matter lightly. Sooner or later a line of policy to be pursued towards the affair must be decided upon. The foreign office has therefore given instructions to the Japanese ministers in various foreign countries to make reports concerning the matter.

Mrs. Ballington Booth's Illness.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.--Regarding the statement that Mrs. Booth's illness was in any way due to mental troubles, produced by the separation from the Salvation Army, Commander Booth preferred not to speak, but referred the matter to Secretary Hallward, of the Volunteers, who said: "From the commander to the youngest member of the Volunteers, we all believe that Mrs. Booth's illness is due to a great extent to the cruel treatment she received at the hands of various persons since the separation from the Salvation Army."

Commander Booth-Tucker, of the Salvation army, issued the following statement in reference to the attitude of the Salvation Army regarding Mrs. Booth's illness: "We wish to say that there is but one feeling in our hearts regarding the illness of Mrs. Booth and the consequent sorrow and anxiety through which Commander Ballington Booth is passing. That feeling is love which would find expression in unceasing prayer."

Ohio Senatorial Fight Opened.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 23.--The marshaling of forces in the Ohio senatorial contest has been begun. Charles Kurtz, of Columbus, has dropped all pretense of not seeking to defeat Senator Hanna, and has for some time been organizing his forces.

To-day there were many important conferences in Senator Hanna's office among his lieutenants in different parts of the state. Among those who visited the senator were Judge George K. Nash, chairman of the Republican executive committee of Ohio; Harry Daugherty, chairman of the Republican state central committee; John R. Malloy, clerk of the house of representatives and a candidate for re-election; Col. Alexander Cairns, clerk of the state senate and a candidate for re-election and President D. D. Woodmansee and Secretary C. B. Case, of the Ohio League of Republican Clubs. Although none of these gentlemen would reveal what transpired at their conferences, the general import of the meetings is easily inferred.

Largest in the World.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 23.--Carnegie's Homestead mills will soon be the largest in the world. Another big addition for which architects are now at work on the plans, will be made as early as possible. It will be a universal plate mill of greater capacity than any ever before designed. The mill will occupy the ground recently acquired by the company in Homestead near Muncial station and will employ a large force of men. With it the Carnegie company will have the largest capacity for the production of universal plates in the world.

SERIOUS CHARGE

Against a Prominent Member of Henry Ward Beecher's Old Church--Guilty of the Most Reprehensible Baselessness.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23.--William H. Kent, a well-known lawyer of Brooklyn, a prominent member of Plymouth church, in the Sunday School of which he is a teacher, and the organizer of the Penny Savings Bank, connected with the Bethel Mission Sunday School, a branch of Plymouth, is in jail in Brooklyn, having been arrested on a warrant charging him with forgery.

Kent is accused by Mrs. Mary H. McCord, of Brooklyn, of falsely certifying and acknowledging a satisfaction of mortgages. Mrs. McCord, who is a wealthy woman, declared that her name, which appeared on the satisfaction, was not put there by her hand or with her consent. She further charges Kent with falsely certifying and acknowledging the satisfaction of the mortgage, knowing that her signature was not genuine.

It is alleged by Mrs. McCord that Kent has betrayed the trust reposed in him by herself, and that he has not only appropriated the \$1,100 charged in the warrant, but that he has allowed taxes on property belonging to Mrs. McCord's niece and her servant, an elderly, frugal woman, who had been advised that Kent could be trusted.

Assistant District Attorney Caldwell stated that Kent had taken no less than \$40,000 from his clients. Kent also is involved in a difficulty over the estate of William Anderson who was a member of Plymouth church. He left an estate valued at about \$75,000 and in his will left Kent \$5,000 and made him sole executor.

The heirs at law endeavored to get an accounting from Kent and failing, they began a civil action in the supreme court. Former Judge Nathan H. Clement was appointed referee by Judge Gaynor and the case is still pending. The referee's investigations resulted in finding that Kent's affairs were in a confused condition.

SURPRISED THEM.

The Condemnation of the American Press on Kent's Death Pleases Spain.

MADRID, Dec. 23.--The manner in which the American press has condemned the execution of Lieutenant Colonel Ruiz has awakened in Spain a sentiment of sympathy, tending favorably to modify the relations between the two countries.

The ministers and statesmen consider the moment propitious for arriving at accord between Spain and the United States, which would speedily put an end to the war in Cuba. They hope that the Washington government will loyally adhere to the promises of President McKinley's message, making it understood, as did General Grant, that only censure and the rigorous application of law must be expected by those conspiring on American territory against a friendly nation.

They consider that the Cuban reception of the autonomy scheme and the concessions made by Senor Palma impose an imperative duty to do everything possible to prevent blameworthy and destruction of property in Cuba.

Pope on Church and State.

ROME, Dec. 23.--The reception at the Vatican to-day was largely attended by Catholic church dignitaries. Replying to the Christmas greetings, the pope deplored the conflict between the state and Holy See, which impartial minds desired to end. The majority of Italians, his holiness continued, were against it and it was wrong to fight the will of the people who understood that political unity did not suffice to give them prosperity. Therefore they desired the importance of the papacy and the restoration of its rights. Peaceful citizens should not be confounded with the subversive actions whose aims was to set the cause of Italy and the rights of the papacy in conflict. It had never been unworthy and the state should make just reparation. The pope, who was in excellent health and splendid voice, blessed all present, including twenty-three cardinals. Afterwards every guest passed the throne of the pope and his holiness said a few words to each of them.

In Death They Were Not Divided.

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 23.--Charles S. and Mary Charlotte Chapman, husband and wife, died here yesterday, he first and she but fifty-five minutes later. Apoplexy caused his death. Mrs. Chapman died of the death of her husband, such a short time before. An instance of a similar character was the almost simultaneous death of the paternal grandparents of President McKinley many years ago at their home, a few miles east of this city. Mr. and Mrs. McKinley are buried side by side in the cemetery of this city.

Claimed the X Ray Did It.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Dec. 23.--George A. C. Orme, indicted for murder in the first degree was acquitted to-day. Orme shot James Pumo at Horse Heads on July 8 last, at the home of Mrs. Orme. Mrs. Orme was also shot but recovered. Pumo was taken to the hospital where he died a month after the shooting. Physicians used X-rays to locate the bullet, and the defense maintained that that was the main cause of death.

Sailed for China.

TOULON, Dec. 23.--The French cruiser, Pascal, sailed for China to-day. The Pascal is a second-class cruiser of about 4,000 tons displacement. She carries four 6.4 inch quick firing guns, ten 2.9 inch guns, eight 10.1 inch guns and four 4.1 inch rapid fire guns and has a crew of 378 men. Her speed is estimated at twenty knots.

Movements of Steamships.

NEW YORK--Kensington, from Antwerp; Rotterdam, from Rotterdam; Nomadic from Liverpool; Manitoba, London.

PHILADELPHIA--Sailed 8:30 a. m.--Switzerland, for Antwerp.

NAPLES--Arrived 2:01--Patria, New York.

AMSTERDAM--Arrived: Werkenhem, New York.

ROTTERDAM--Arrived: Spaarndam, New York.

LONDON--Arrived: Kensington, Philadelphia.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

The temperature yesterday as observed by U. S. Bureau observer, at Fortieth and Market streets, was as follows:

7 a. m. 32; 8 a. m. 31; 9 a. m. 30; 10 a. m. 29; 11 a. m. 28; 12 m. 27; 1 p. m.